

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly Newscast

# November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Kim Chaba-Armstrong

### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## News Story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Choose the definition that best matches each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. dealing with	a) without any place to live
	2. in the wake of	b) taking action to solve a problem
	3. homeless	c) fall down
	4. aid	d) after something has happened and often because something has happened
	5. mobs	e) strongly suggest someone do something
	6. collapse	f) money, food, or other supplies given to help a country or group of people
	7. urge	g) large groups of people that are often violent

**Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:**

**typhoon:** a very strong tropical storm

**maintaining order:** when the government tries to keep the people peaceful and having lawful behaviour

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ After Typhoon Haiyan, people in the Philippines do not have enough food and water.
2. \_\_\_\_ The official number of people who died in the storm was more than 2,000.
3. \_\_\_\_ At one food warehouse, a group attacked, trying to steal money.
4. \_\_\_\_ Eighty people died during the attack on the warehouse when a wall fell down.
5. \_\_\_\_ The mayor of one city asked residents to stay in their homes.

### Discussion Questions

What is the best thing that people in Canada can do to help people in the Philippines?

Should the government of Canada do more to help people around the world who face difficult situations like storms or earthquakes?

## News Story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

overwhelmingly	very strong or in a large amount
in favour	agree with
motion	a formal decision made by a committee during a meeting
leave of absence	time when you have permission to be away from work, often for personal, stress or health reasons
admitted	to say something is true
zero tolerance	when you completely do not accept something
ignore	pay no attention to something

### Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

**crack cocaine** – a kind of cocaine, an illegal substance (drug) that can be smoked and is thought to be very addictive

1. The Parents Committee made a \_\_\_\_\_ to have a family dance at the school to raise money for new band instruments.
2. After my car accident, I was able to get a \_\_\_\_\_ from work so I could rest.
3. I am completely \_\_\_\_\_ of banning people from smoking in children's playgrounds.
4. When my daughter gets upset by her brother's teasing and joking around, I tell her to just \_\_\_\_\_ him.
5. The people who live in my apartment building are \_\_\_\_\_ in agreement that the elevators need to be fixed.
6. At first my son said he did not eat the whole bag of cookies, but after I showed him the bag I found in his room, he \_\_\_\_\_ it was true.
7. The school has a \_\_\_\_\_ attitude towards bullying and takes the problem very seriously.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

## **Listening Activity: Short Answer**

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What motion did the Toronto city council agree on?
2. During the meeting, what did Mayor Rob Ford admit he had done?
3. Earlier in his time as mayor, what two things did Rob Ford say he was 100% against?
4. Will Rob Ford follow the direction given by the city council?
5. Which illegal drug has Ford admitted to using?

## **Discussion Questions**

Do you think we should expect better behaviour from our elected officials than from regular people? Should the mayor of Toronto continue to be mayor until the next election?

### News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Choose the words with similar meaning that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) refuge	a. safe place protection
	2) shot	b. hit fired on
	3) sanctuary	c. sets free lets go
	4) injured	d. safe place protection
	5) releases	e. says someone is guilty faults
	6) blames	f. wounded hurt

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences based on what you heard in the audio. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. _____ young moose were _____ at a sanctuary near Cochrane.	a) three/ injured b) two/ killed
2. The animals were found within _____ of each _____.	a) hours/ others b) days / other
3. The refuge takes care of _____ animals and _____ them to the wild.	a) injured/ releases b) dead/ buries.
4. The sanctuary thinks that _____ hunters _____ the fence.	a) inexperienced/ ignored b) experienced / broke down

### Discussion Questions

Do you think hunting wild animals is a good idea? What limitations should be put on hunters to protect animals?

## Language Focus – Identifying Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe or give more information about nouns and pronouns. We use adjectives to enhance ideas or help us describe something clearly. An adjective usually comes before the noun that it modifies.

Adjectives tell us an observation, opinion, a physical description, the origin, the material, purpose and the number of nouns. Adjectives are not always necessary for a sentence to make sense, but they help our reader/listener better understand what we are describing.

Look at some examples from the stories this week. The **adjectives** are highlighted and the nouns they describe are underlined.

People are **homeless**, **hungry** and **thirsty**.

The adjectives tell us how the people in the Philippines are doing. When we use adjectives with the verb “to be”, the noun comes first followed by the verb and then the adjective.

The **official** number....

Here the adjective ‘official’ tells us that the number of people who died is not a guess, a rumor, or the opinion of the journalist, but rather it is the number from the government or another authority. In this case, the adjective goes before the noun it is describing.

....to get help for **personal** problems

Here the adjective ‘personal’ gives the reader more information about the nature of the problems; they are not financial, professional or other kinds of problems. In this case, the adjective goes before the noun it is describing.

... he had bought **illegal** drugs ...

Here the adjective ‘illegal’ gives the reader more information about the nature of the drugs; they are not prescription or other legal kinds of drugs. In this case, the adjective goes before the noun it is describing.

**Listen to story #3 again. What adjectives are in this story? Do the adjectives come before the nouns they are describing, or are they used after the verb to be? Examples are in the appendix.**

## Transcripts of Weekly News Stories

	NOVEMBER 15 <sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English on CBC for the week of November 15 <sup>th</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	The Philippines is dealing with hunger and violence in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan. The official number of people who died in the storm is more than two thousand, but hundreds of thousands of people are homeless, hungry and thirsty. And, aid is not getting to many people quickly enough. On Wednesday mobs on one island took over a rice warehouse, which caused a wall to collapse that killed eight people. The mayor of the hardest hit city urged residents to leave because authorities were having trouble delivering food and water, and maintaining order.	0:10
Story 2	Toronto city council has voted overwhelmingly in favour of a motion asking Mayor Rob Ford to take a leave of absence to get help for personal problems. The vote came at the end of the meeting, during which Ford admitted that he had bought illegal drugs since he has been mayor. Since becoming mayor, Ford has said he has zero tolerance for drugs and gangs. Ford said that he had made mistakes but that he would ignore the motion saying he could only apologize so many times and was moving on. Ford had earlier admitted to smoking crack cocaine while drunk.	1:08
Story 3	Two young moose have been killed at a wildlife refuge just west of Cochrane. The animals were found shot within a few days of one another at the Cochrane Ecological Institute. The sanctuary takes care of injured animals and releases them to the wild. Clio Smeeton says five moose have been shot and killed at the institute over the past eight years. She blames young, inexperienced hunters who either don't see or just ignore the 8-foot high fence surrounding the moose. The sanctuary is offering a reward for information leading to the poachers.	2:02

## Answer keys:

### News Story 1 – Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
<b>b</b>	1. dealing with	a) without any place to live
<b>d</b>	2. in the wake of	b) taking action to solve a problem
<b>a</b>	3. homeless	c) fall down
<b>f</b>	4. aid	d) after something has happened and often because something has happened
<b>g</b>	5. mobs	e) strongly suggest someone do something
<b>c</b>	6. collapse	f) money, food, or other supplies given to help a country or group of people
<b>e</b>	7. urge	g) large groups of people that are often violent

### Listening

1. **T** After Typhoon Haiyan, people in the Philippines do not have enough food and water.
2. **T** The official number of people who died in the storm was more than 2,000.
3. **F** At one food warehouse, a group attacked, trying to steal money.
4. **F** Eighty people died during the attack on the warehouse when a wall fell down.
5. **F** The mayor of Tacloban asked residents to stay in their homes.

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary

1. The Parents Committee made a **motion** to have a family dance at the school to raise money for new band instruments.
2. After my car accident, I was able to get a **leave of absence** from work so I could rest.
3. I am completely **in favour** of banning people from smoking in children's playgrounds.
4. When my daughter gets upset by her brother's teasing and joking around, I tell her to just **ignore** him.
5. The people who live in my apartment building are **overwhelmingly** in agreement that the elevators need to be fixed.
6. At first my son said he did not eat the whole bag of cookies, but after I showed him the bag I found in his room, he **admitted** it was true.



7. The school has a zero tolerance attitude towards bullying and takes the problem very seriously.

## Listening

1. What motion did the Toronto city council agree on?

*They agreed that the mayor should take a leave of absence.*

2. During the meeting, what did Mayor Rob Ford admit he had done?

*He admitted he had bought illegal drugs.*

3. Earlier in his time as mayor, what two things did Rob Ford say he was 100% against?

*He had zero tolerance for drugs and gangs.*

4. Will Rob Ford follow the direction given by the city council?

*No, he says he will ignore it.*

5. Which illegal drug has Ford admitted to using?

*He has admitted to using crack cocaine.*

## News Story 3

### Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
a or d	1) refuge	a. safe place protection
b	2) shot	b. hit fired on
a or d	3) sanctuary	c. sets free lets go
f	4) injured	d. safe place protection
c	5) releases	e. says someone is guilty faults
e	6) blames	f. wounded hurt

## Listening

1. Two young moose were killed at a sanctuary near Cochrane.	a) three/ injured b) two/ killed
2. The animals were found within days of each other	a) hours/ others b) days / other
3. The refuge takes care of injured animals and releases them to the wild.	a) injured/ releases b) dead/ buries.
4. The sanctuary thinks that inexperienced hunters ignored the fence.	a) inexperienced/ ignored b) experienced / broke down

## Language Focus

### Examples from Listening #3

Two young moose have been killed before the noun

Ecological Institute before the noun

takes care of injured animals after the BE verb

She blames young, inexperienced hunters before the noun